

Enhancement of Import Duty on Sugar

† 510. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to* state:

(a) whether Government have enhanced the import duty on sugar being imported from abroad to strengthen the domestic sugar industry and to protect the interests of sugarcane growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have increased the custom duty on import of sugar from 40% to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000 to discourage imports of sugar which were, destabilizing the sugar industry

Cases registered under prevention of Black Marketing

511. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases have been registered under Prevention of Black Marketing in the country, state wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that many cases have been registered in Gujarat;

(c) if so, what action is taken in reviewing and deciding such cases; and

(d) how many such cases of PBM are pending with Government till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

information available with the Central Government from the various State Governments, the number of persons detained under the Prevention of Black Marketing and maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the current calendar year from 1st January, 2000 till 21.7.2000, State-wise is as under:—

SI. No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of detentions made
1.	Gujarat	116
2.	Madhya Pradesh	12
3.	Tamil Nadu	13
	Total	141

No cases have reported by the remaining States/UTs.

(c) The State Government and the Central Government have the powers to revoke or modify detention orders issued under the Act. The Advisory Board constituted by the State Government under the Act and comprising three members who are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of the High Court, submits its opinion in its report as to whether or not there is sufficient cause for the detention of the person concerned. On receipt of the report of the Board, the concerned State Government may confirm the detention order and continue the detention of the person or revoke the detention order and cause the person to be released- The detenu can also seek relief from the appropriate Courts.

(d) As on 21.07.2000, nine representations submitted by persons against whom detention orders have been issued under the Act are pending with the Central Government. In all these cases comments of the State Government or English translation of the representation Grounds of detention are awaited from the state Government concerned.